

**Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly GAE Committee**  
Public Hearing February 22, 2023

In support of:

- [S.B. No. 1064](#) (Raised) An Act Concerning the Implementation of Early Voting.
- [H.B. No. 5004](#) (Comm) An Act Implementing Early Voting
- [S.J. No. 29](#) (Comm) Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- [H.J. No. 1](#) (Comm) Resolution Approving a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- [H.B. No. 6693](#) (Raised) An Act Concerning Absentee Voting

Dear Senator Mae Flexer (Co-Chair), Representative Matt Blumenthal (Co-Chair), Ranking members Senator Rob Sampson and Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco and esteemed members of the Government Administration & Elections (GAE) Committee:

My name is Jeffrey Schwartz and I have been a resident of Fairfield, CT for 35 years. As a school teacher, parent, and advocate for democracy, I strongly believe that now is the time for CT to join states across the country to implement **14-day Early Voting** and **No-Excuse Absentee Voting**.

Voting should be as easy and secure as possible for as many eligible voters as possible. That means opening polls on early mornings, evenings, at least two weekends, and in multiple locations for all elections. **14-day Early Voting** would make elections more accessible for working families, those of us who have long commutes, disabled populations, those who depend on public transportation, and young people—like the ones I taught—who want to cast their first ballots but cannot always get to the polls given current constraints of time and distance. 60% of voters agreed in the November referendum that the state Constitution must be amended to include **Early Voting**.

During the pandemic, we saw a huge jump in voters who chose Absentee Ballots. **No-Excuse Absentee Voting** already works in 35 other states. This should be an option for Connecticut voters, as well, in all future elections.

It is crucial to secure funding and expand access now to make voting easier, safer, and more equitable for all eligible voters in Connecticut.

Thank you for all that you have done to expand freedom to vote in Connecticut.

Jeffrey Schwartz  
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